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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/727,853	12/03/2003	Donald Ray Gillis	HIT1P051/HSJ9-2003-0211US	7937

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EXAMINER

MOHANDESI, JILA M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3728

DATE MAILED: 09/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/727,853

Applicant(s)

GILLIS ET AL.

Examiner

Jila M. Mohandesi

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– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/03/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 24 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 24 depends from itself. For the purpose of examination the examiner will treat claim 24 to depend from claim 23. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is not clear whether the applicant intends to claim the combination of a protective device and an electronic device or is claiming the subcombination of a protective device for use with the electronic device. This is because in many instances claims which appear to be drawn only to the subcombination of the protective device (no electronic device has been claimed), are further structurally limited with reference to the electronic device. For example only claim 1, line 1 appears to clearly indicate that no electronic device is claimed (the claim is drawn to a protective device for an electronic device). On the other hand claim 7, line 2 recites limitation, which are dependent on the shape and size of the electronic device. All of the claims should be reviewed for this type of error. In this office action all references in the claims to the electronic device where they are not expressly recited in combination with the claimed protective device are not considered to be further

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structurally limiting with respect to the protective device. The examiner will treat such references to the electronic device as merely the applicants' statements of intended use of the protective device in order to give the claims their broadest reasonable interpretation pursuant to PTO practice. On the other hand clarification of the scope of the above noted claims is required in response to this office action.

4. Claim 10 recites the limitation "the housing" in lines 1 and 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1-3, 5-11, 14-19, 22-23 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Densen (2,696,322). Densen '322 discloses a device for extending an event time of a physical shock imparted on an electronic device, comprising: a frame (10); and a resiliently elastic material (bags 15 and extending straps 16 and 17) coupled to the frame, the resiliently elastic material suspending a product/device with respect to the frame; and at least one rib (anchors 20 and joints 30) coupled to the frame and the

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product/device for further restricting movement of the product with respect to the frame.

See Figures 1 and 2 embodiments.

The hard disk drive recited in claims 14, 22 and 27, is being treated as merely modifying the intended use phrase of claim 1 and, thus, not requiring a hard disk drive.

7. Claims 1-6, 9 and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lofgren et al. (6,920,981). Lofgren '981 discloses a device for extending an event time of a physical shock imparted on an electronic device, comprising: a frame (2); and a resiliently elastic material (elastomeric material 20 and 22) coupled to the frame, the resiliently elastic material suspending a product/device with respect to the frame. See Figure 1 embodiment.

The hard disk drive recited in claims 14 and 22, is being treated as merely modifying the intended use phrase of claim 1 and, thus, not requiring a hard disk drive.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 4, 12-13, 20-21 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Densen '322.

With respect to claims 4 and 24 and the material of the resiliently elastic material, it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known

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material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. In re Leshin, 125 USPQ 416.

With respect to claims 12-13, 20-21 and 25-26, Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the shock event time, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Shown are protective devices analogous to applicant's instant invention.

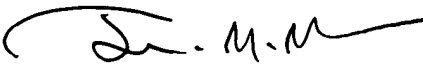
11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jila M. Mohandesi whose telephone number is (571) 272-4558. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30-4:00 (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mickey Yu can be reached on (571) 272-4562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**JILA M. MOHANDESI
PRIMARY EXAMINER**



Jila M Mohandesi
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3728

JMM
September 01, 2005